

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-27 (canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) A method for dial roaming outside of a home service region comprising:

- dialing into a local dial access provider;
- creating an access request comprising user identifying information and home region identifying information;
- forwarding the access request from a network access server (NAS) to a corporate remote authentication dial-in user service (RADIUS) server;
- determining from the home region identifying information whether the home region supports Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) authentication;
- if the home region does not offer LDAP authentication, then:
 - proxying the access request to a regional RADIUS server associated with the user's home region;
 - comparing the user identifying information in the access request with user identifying information stored in a regional user database accessible to the regional RADIUS server; and
 - if the user identifying information in the access request matches the stored user identifying information, then:
 - authenticating the user; and
 - providing configuration information to the ~~user~~NAS to allow access to a network of the home region.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) The method for dial roaming outside of a home service region

of claim 2928, wherein the NAS functions as a client of the corporate RADIUS server.

31. (Previously presented) The method for dial roaming outside of a home service region of claim 28 further comprising:

if the home region offers LDAP authentication, then forwarding the access request to a regional LDAP database.

32. (Previously presented) The method for dial roaming outside of a home service region of claim 31 further comprising comparing the user identifying information in the access request with user identifying information stored in a regional user database accessible to the regional LDAP database.

33. (Previously presented) The method for dial roaming outside of a home service region of claim 32 further comprising the regional LDAP database sending an "accept" message if the user is in the regional LDAP database and a "deny" message if the user is not in the regional LDAP database.

34. (Previously presented) The method for dial roaming outside of a home service region of claim 28, wherein the user identifying information comprises a user name and password.

35. (Previously presented) The method for dial roaming outside of a home service region of claim 28, wherein the home region identifying information comprises a component of the user name.

36. (Previously presented) The method for dial roaming outside of a home service region of claim 35, wherein the user name comprises an email address of the user.

37. (Previously presented) The method for dial roaming outside of a home service region of claim 35, wherein comparing the user identifying information in the access request with user identifying information stored in a regional user database accessible to the regional RADIUS server comprises comparing the user password in the access request with a user password stored in a regional user database accessible to the regional RADIUS server.

38. (Previously presented) The method for dial roaming outside of a home service region of claim 37, wherein the user password comprises a first hashed value and wherein comparing the user password in the access request with a user password stored in a regional user database accessible to the regional RADIUS server comprises:

determining at the regional RADIUS server a hashing algorithm used to create the

- first hashed value;
- obtaining the stored password in clear text format;
- applying the hashing algorithm to the clear text stored password to produce a second hashed value; and
- comparing the first hashed value to the second hash value.

39. (Previously presented) The method for dial roaming outside of a home service region of claim 38 wherein the hashing algorithm is CHAP.

40. (Currently Amended) A system for dial roaming outside of a home Internet service region comprising:

- a user computer having a home service region;
- a network access ~~computer (NAC)~~ server (NAS), wherein the ~~NAC~~ NAS is adapted to:

- connect to the user computer via a dial-up connection;
- ~~received~~ receive user identifying information and home region identifying information from the user computer;
- create an access request comprising the user identifying information and the home region identifying information; and
- direct the access request to a corporate authentication dial-in user service (RADIUS) server; and

the corporate RADIUS server, wherein the RADIUS server is adapted to:

- receive the access request;
- determine from the home region identifying information whether the home service region supports Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) authentication; and
- if the home service region does not offer LDAP authentication, then proxy the access request to a regional RADIUS server associated with the user's home region; and

the regional RADIUS server, wherein the regional RADIUS server is adapted to:

- compare the user identifying information in the access request with user identifying information stored in a regional user database accessible to the

regional RADIUS server; and
if the user identifying information in the access request matches the stored user identifying information, then authenticate the user and provide configuration information to the ~~user-computer~~NAS to allow the user computer access to a network of the home region.

41. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40, wherein the system further comprises a regional LDAP server and a regional LDAP user database accessible to the regional LDAP server, and wherein the corporate RADIUS server is further adapted to:

if the home region offers LDAP authentication, then forward the access request to a regional LDAP server.

42. (Previously presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the regional LDAP server if adapted to:

receive the access request; and
compare the user identifying information in the access request with user identifying information stored in the regional LDAP user database.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the regional LDAP server is further adapted to send an "accept" message if the user is in the regional LDAP user database and a "deny" message if the user is not in the regional user LDAP database.

4244. (Currently amended) The system of claim 40, wherein the user identifying information comprises a user name and password.

4345. (Currently amended) The system of claim 4244, wherein the NAS is further adapted to hash the user name and password using a hashing algorithm.

4446. (Currently amended) The system of claim 4345, wherein the regional RADIUS server is further adapted to;

determine the hashing algorithm used by the NAS;
apply the hashing algorithm to a name and password stored in the regional database;
and determined if the value of the hash of the user name and password provided in

the access request matches the hash value of the name and password stored in the regional database.

4547. (Currently amended) The system of claim 4446, wherein the hashing algorithm is CHAP.